

Message Text

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66

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 PRS-01 H-02 PCH-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SCA-01 OPR-02 SCSE-00

OMB-01 /134 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ P: JEBRIGGS

5/10/73 EXT 20448

APPROVED BY NEA/ P: JEBRIGGS

S/ PRS: CBRAV (INFO)

IO/ P: FBLACHLY

AF/ P: GAFRIEDMAN

NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

EUR/ P: ESAVAGE

H: KFOLGER (INFO)

----- 029036

R 101828 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN' S PRESS BRIEFING MAY 10,
1973:

QUOTE: MR. BRAY: THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES TO
THE DEPARTMENT AND TO OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT, REGARDING THE
SITUATION OF AMERICANS IN LEBANON. OUR LATEST REPORTS
INDICATE THAT ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY --
THIS INCLUDES OF COURSE, MEMBERS OF OUR EMBASSY STAFF AND
THEIR DEPENDENTS -- ARE SAFE.

WHILE WE HAVE NOT PUT OUT ANY FORMAL TRAVEL NOTICE, WE ARE
SUGGESTING THAT AMERICANS POSTPONE TRAVEL TO LEBANON, AT
LEAST FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, AND IN THAT CONNECTION, I UNDER-
STAND THAT THERE ARE REPORTS CIRCULATING, PERHAPS SEVERAL
PLACES, TO THE EFFECT THAT " THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS
ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN THE LIGHT
OF THE PRESENT SITUATION." THAT IS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE.

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WHILE I DON' T WANT TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IN RECENT DAYS, I
DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE ANY IMPLICATION THAT THEY HAVE ASKED US
TO INTERVENE MILITARILY. THEY HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOT DONE SO.

Q. ACCEPTING THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ASKED
THE UNITED STATES TO INTERVENE MILITARILY, WOULD YOU SAY
WHETHER THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY DISCUSSIONS TO THAT EFFECT.
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Q. WHERE DO THESE STORIES GET STARTED FROM? YOU MENTION-
ED " THESE STORIES ABOUT LEBANON ASKING US". WHERE DO
THEY COME FROM?

A. I AM NOT CERTAIN OF THE GENESIS.
LET ME SAY ON BACKGROUND MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THEY BEGAN

-- " IT" OR " THEY" -- BEGAN OUT OF NEW YORK.

Q. IN THE SAME CONTEXT, DO YOU HAVE BY ANY CHANCE, INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF SUPPOSED GUERRILLA, OR RATHER, PALESTINIAN INFILTRATIONS FROM SYRIA INTO LEBANON IN THE PAST FEW DAYS? IN LARGE NUMBERS?

A. WE HAVE -- LEAVING OUR OWN INFORMATION ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT -- WE HAVE CERTAINLY NOTED THE SAME PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAVE COME TO YOUR ATTENTION.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES URGING RESTRAINT ON ISRAEL, IN THIS SITUATION?

A. WELL, LET ME GO ON BACKGROUND I DON' T KNOW THAT THERE IS ANYTHING IN THE SITUATION WHICH WOULD CALL FOR THAT KIND OF COMMUNICATION.

Q. WELL, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY ISRAELI LEADERS, WARNING, BASICALLY, THAT ANY INTERVENTION BY A THIRD COUNTRY, PRESEUMABLY SYRIA, INTO LEBANON, WOULD AFFECT ISRAEL.

A. I STAND ON WHAT I JUST GAVE YOU ON BACKGROUND.

Q. YOU SAID THAT, ABOUT " TRAVEL INTO LEBANON" YOU PUT IT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE " NEXT FEW DAYS," WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE NEXT FEW DAYS?

A. THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND AT THE MOMENT. IF AT THE END OF THE NEXT FEW DAYS THERE SEEMS SOME REASON TO RENEW THIS INFORMAL WARNING ADVICE TO TRAVELERS, WE' LL DO SO.

Q. DO WE HAVE ANY INDICATION OF ANY SYRIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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OR CONCENTRATIONS, ALONG THE BORDER WITH LEBANON?

A. I PREFER NOT TO GET INTO THAT, AT THE MOMENT -- SIMPLY BECAUSE I AM NOT ENTIRELY BRIEFED ON THE MATTER. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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